

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
ACDA-07 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 EB-07 OES-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /081 W
-----171359Z 110645 /53

R 170936Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3952

S E C R E T TAIPEI 3594

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TW US
SUBJECT: ROC ATTITUDE TOWARD ELIMINATION OF MAAG AND NEW ARMS
TRANSFER POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 117971, (B) STATE 133386

1. CHINESE-AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER REPORTS HERE ON THE PROBABLE REDUCTION OF MAAG TO A SIX-MAN OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION HAVE BEEN BRIEF AND FACTUAL, WITH LITTLE COMMENTARY. ADMIRAL SOONG WAS REPORTED ORIGINALLY AS A BIT DISTURBED ABOUT THE SMALL SIZE PROJECTED FOR THE ODC, BUT IS NOW RESIGNED TO THE DIMINUTION OF THE ADVISORY EFFORT. MOST ALL OF OUR CONTACTS IN MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES HAVE TAKEN THE NEWS WITH EQUANIMITY, POINTING OUT THAT THE WORLD-WIDE TREND WAS WELL ADVERTISED BEGINNING ABOUT A YEAR AGO. NEVETHELESS, WE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO ACCUSTOMS THE ROC TO A PHASEDOWN AND POSSIBLE EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE MAAG, EMPHASIZING THAT THIS IS PART OF A WORLD-WIDE MAAG REDUCTION PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE UPPER ECHELONS OF GROG UNDERSTAND THAT LHE PRESENT MAAG REDUCTION IS NOT A DELIBERATE US MOVE TO DOWNGRADE SECURITY RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IN FACT, CONGRESSIONAL ACTION (RATHER THAN EXECUTIVE) MAY MAKE IT EASIER FOR BOTH THE GROG AND USG TO ACCOMMODATE
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TO THE NEW RELATIONSHIP.

2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY HAS NOT BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ANY COMMENT OR COVER-AGE WHATSOEVER IN THE LOCAL PRESS, CHINESE OR ENGLISH. INFORMAL PUBLIC REACTION HAS ALSO BEEN NIL. BRIEFING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MAY 20 (POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO

MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR WANG) WAS COMPLETELY
NEGATIVE WITH RESPECT TO PERSONAL OR OFFICIAL REACTION TO
THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH WANG'S REACTION
SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AN INFORMED GROC RESPONSE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND WE HAVE INDICATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE
FROM INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, THAT AT TOP LEVELS GROC
OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO BE VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT WEAPONS
AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WHICH US UNWILLING
TO PROVIDE TO ROC. WE DETECT GROWING DISPOSITION TO INTENSIFY
SEARCH FOR SUCH ITEMS FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN US, PROBABLY
AS RESULT AT LEAST IN PART OF ANTICIPATION OF EVEN STRICTER
US ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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